

# COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

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*Speaking Division*

*Bulletin No. 2*



## HINTS for SPEAKERS

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## *The ISSUES of the WAR AT A GLANCE*

BASED UPON PUBLICATIONS OF  
THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION  
NOS. 1, 101, 102, 103, 104

"We dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness and the peace which she has treasured. God helping her, she can do no other."—PRESIDENT WILSON.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.  
*January, 1918*



# THE WAR AT A GLANCE

## BASED UPON PUBLICATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION.

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### How the War Came to America.

The President's Address of January 22, 1917.

The President's War Message, April 2, 1917.

The Flag Day Address, June 14, 1917.

### The War Message and the Facts Behind It.

The President's Message Annotated.

### The Nation in Arms.

By Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of Interior,  
and Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War.

### The German Government.

By Charles D. Hazen.

### The Great War: From Spectator to Participant.

By Andrew C. McLaughlin.

### THE ORIGIN.

All the world is at war with Germany,

Since Germany makes war on all the world.

Germany defies all the world.

Germany would master the world.

Germany would sack the whole world.

Germany so declares.

Germany provoked war—

We held our peace.

Germany invaded Belgium—  
We held our peace.

Germany dealt in frightfulness—  
We held our peace.

Germany exalted ruthlessness—  
We held our peace.

Germany slew women and children—  
We held our peace.

Germany promoted massacre—  
We held our peace.

Germany enslaved captives—  
We held our peace.

Germany sunk the Lusitania—  
We held our peace.

Germany set spies among us—  
We held our peace.

Germany plotted within our gates—  
We held our peace.

Germany intrigued against us—  
We held our peace.

Germany fomented strife among us—  
We studied forbearance.

Germany destroyed our goods—  
We swallowed our indignation.

Germany murdered our citizens—  
We choked down our wrath.

Germany broke solemn promises—  
We clung to shattered faith.

Germany—  
At length loosed war on us and on all neutrals.

Then we saw  
The only way out was to go through.

Beset by war—  
The United States fights for world peace.

Our State is founded on the consent of the governed—  
Germany makes war on that.

Our Government is established on the people's will—

Germany makes war on that.

Our Civilization is seated in equal rights—

Germany makes war on that.

Our Life is shaped to the way of freedom—

Germany makes war on that.

"There is only one law in Germany and that is my will."—Kaiser Wilhelm.

"Henceforth nothing in America shall be done without me."—Kaiser Wilhelm.

### THE CAUSE AT STAKE.

This is the world war: other wars were waged—

By one prince upon another.

By one kingdom upon another.

By one coalition upon another.

Now Germany setting itself against the world

Involves all mankind in the world war.

Germany believes with all its strength—

In the survival of the fittest.

In the conflict of raw forces.

In warfare as the supreme test.

In Germany's power to prevail.

So Germany challenges all the world.

If Germany is right—

Other Governments must fall.

Other civilizations must go under.

Other ideas must be cast aside.

It is Germany against the world.

If Germany is right—

The people exist for the State.

The subject lives by the king's sufferance.

The sword is supreme law.

Might alone measures right.

It is Germany against self-government.

If Germany is right—

Frightfulness is sound policy.

Mercy is sinful folly.

Clemency is silly sentiment.

Democracy is an idle dream.

It is Germany against equal rights.

If Germany is right—

The meek shall serve the militant.

The strong shall trample on the weak.

The feeble can only perish.

It is Germany against humanity.

If Germany is right—

All that Germany has done is good.

All we hold dear is wrong.

Our hopes and faith and history of a hundred years are vain.

It is Germany against civilization.

## THE ONRUSHING EVENT.

### Other wars were local.

The Crimean, the Franco-Prussian, the Russo-Japanese—we heard of them by post or wire, hardly more. This war reached everywhere from its first stroke.

It interfered with all trade, all commerce, all industry, all finance, all arts.

It upset all markets, all currencies, all production.

It broke all communications, hampered all exchanges, shook all institutions.

It intruded on every Government, every people, every living.

It clipped every dollar, shrunk every loaf, took from every day's wages.

In the nature of things this is a world war.



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### **Other wars were momentary.**

Rivals fought over boundaries, thrones, mistresses, quarrels, booties. This war goes to fundamental things.

Two systems of civilization contend for place in the world now so close knit that they can not both survive. In ordinary competition one or the other would supersede. Now war determines which shall prevail.

From this war comes universal compulsion or universal cooperation.

### **Election by catastrophe.**

In the nature of things the free world which Germany defies ranges itself on freedom's side—England, France, the new Russia, Canada, Australia, the United States, Argentina—all the company of free peoples.

Carrying on the fight the fathers made for independence, for liberty, for free institutions, America is summoned to defend not only its possessions, its Government, and its people, but its very soul. We maintain not mere existence but the fabric of our world.

We affirm the faith America first proclaimed.

### **In the womb of destiny.**

After the war there will rise a new world. On us—under God—it rests whether it be wrought of freedom or of servitude—in the German order or of America's spirit; a hard world dominated by the iron law or a fair world, increasing in happiness under the mild sway of the golden rule.

We stake all on freedom.











